

## Message Text

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SUBJ: UK PARTICIPATION IN UN COMITE OF 24

REF: USUN 2118

UKUN ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE TODAY RELATING TO  
ITS PARTICIPATION IN WORK OF UN COMITE OF 24:

QUOTE THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOW CONCLUDED ITS  
EXAMINATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM  
AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT  
WHEN THE LAST GOVERNMENT WAS IN OFFICE THE DECISION WAS  
TAKEN THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOULD GIVE UP ITS SEAT ON  
THE COMMITTEE AND SHOULD REFRAIN FROM COOPERATION WITH IT  
WHICH WENT BEYOND ITS STRICT OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE UN  
CHARTER.

SUCCESSIVE LABOUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE  
TO THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK,  
AS MR. IVOR RICHARD, THE NEW UNITED KINGDOM PERMANENT  
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REPRESENTATIVE, TOLD THE PRESS ON 29 MARCH, "WE WOULD HOPE

TO HAVE MUCH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE COMMITTEE OF 24 THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS (BECAUSE) I THINK BASICALLY THE COMMITTEE SEEMS TO US TO REPRESENT A VERY SIGNIFICANT STRAND OF INTERNATIONAL OPINION, AND PARTICULARLY OF AFRICAN OPINION". THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS HAD ITS DIFFERENCES WITH THE COMMITTEE OF 24 IN THE PAST. BUT IT IS COMMITTED TO THE TASK OF DECOLONISATION AND TO GRANTING THE PEOPLES OF THE REMAINING NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION THE FREE EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND, SHOULD THEY SO WISH, TO INDEPENDENCE. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THEREFORE THAT ITS AIMS AND THOSE OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON, AND THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR CLOSER MUTUAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO.

WHEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24, AMBASSADOR SALIM OF TANZANIA, WAS IN LONDON RECENTLY, HE EXCHANGED GENERAL VIEWS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE COMMITTEE WITH MR. DAVID ENNALS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE FCO.

FOLLOWING FURTHER DETAILED DISCUSSION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR SALIM AND MR. IVOR RICHARD IN NEW YORK, MR. RICHARD HAS TODAY WRITTEN TO AMBASSADOR SALIM, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, INFORMING HIM OF THE STEPS THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM PROPOSES TO TAKE. THE SUBSTANTIVE PARTS OF MR. RICHARD'S LETTER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

"MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT VISITING MISSIONS CAN IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES SERVE A MOST USEFUL PURPOSE IN THE PROCESS OF BRINGING THE PEOPLES OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. IT THEREFORE LOOKS FORWARD TO CLOSER COOPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN THIS REGARD AND I AM DIRECTED TO INFORM YOU OF OUR BROAD AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO THIS EFFECT. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONSULTING FURTHER WITH YOU ON THIS MATTER, AND PARTICULARLY ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A MISSION TO THE ELlice ISLANDS TO OBSERVE THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM THERE LATER THIS SUMMER PROVIDING THAT WE CAN AGREE SUCH MATTERS AS TIMING AND COMPOSITION. I AM BOUND TO REITERATE, HOWEVER, THAT

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THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT, AS ADMINISTERING POWER, RETAINS THE DUTY TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT A PARTICULAR MISSION IS APPROPRIATE. IN ARRIVING AT SUCH A DECISION, THE VIEW OF THE LOCALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS, WHERE THESE EXIST, WILL BE ONE OF OUR MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS.

I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT WE SHALL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE WITH UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON RECENT

DEVELOPMENTS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES FOR WHICH WE ARE RESPONSIBLE, AND TO USE OUR BEST ENDEAVOURS TO RESPOND TO ANY REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION THAT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MAY MAKE. WE ALSO STAND READY TO TAKE PART IN MEETINGS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES ON UNITED KINGDOM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES SHOULD WE BE ASKED TO DO SO.

MY GOVERNMENT NOW LOOKS FORWARD TO A PERIOD OF FAR GREATER MUTUAL COOPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE RECENT PAST. THE COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVES ARE SHARED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND MY GOVERNMENT'S EARNEST HOPE IS THAT OUR WORK CAN BE CARRIED FORWARD IN THIS WAY."

IN DISCUSSION WITH MR. RICHARD, AMBASSADOR SALIM WELCOMED THE UNITED KINGDOM'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT THE COMMITTEE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TO THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S REMAINING NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES. HE AND MR. RICHARD WERE BOTH OF THE VIEW THAT THE STEPS THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS TAKING WOULD ESTABLISH A RENEWED FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE COMMITTEE IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

13 JUNE, 1974. UNQUOTE  
SCHAUFELLE

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